

BENT RIM BUGLE

Issue #49

SUBARU. 

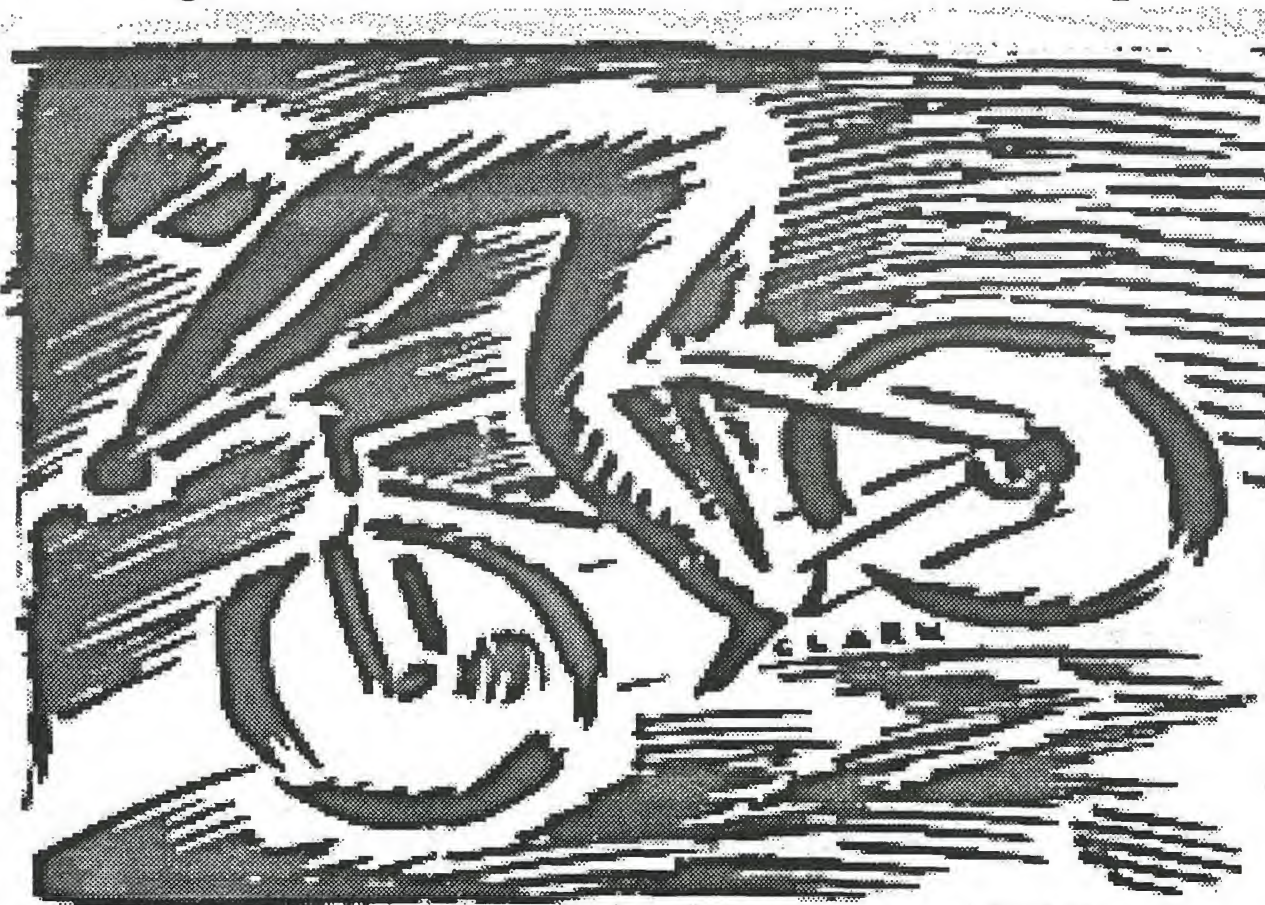
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1999



FESTINA™ WATCHES

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES SCHEDULE

You do not have to be an MMBA member to ride in any of the races listed.

However, membership/race tabulation fee is required to be in the points series.

Always check with promoter for information, current start times, race applications, pre-registration dates and date of events. See MMBA Championship Points Series Rules for eligibility (Feb 99). All dates on public properties are subject to land manager considerations and it is up to the rider to make sure that times and dates are current and correct. Pre-registration dates are determined by individual promoters and it is up to the rider to obtain current and correct pre-registration dates from each promoter. It is highly recommended that you renew your membership in the MMBA and pay the \$5.00 tabulation fee prior to the first race you want to count in the MMBA Festina CPS regardless of when your current membership expires. Only the results from the best seven races will be counted for series.

APRIL 18 YANKEE SPRINGS / DEEP LAKE TIME TRIAL

Deep Lake Campground Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00-9:30am START: 10:00am

KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

MAY 2 FORT CUSTER STAMPEDE

Augusta, Michigan Mike Needham (616) 731-4078

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start

START: Exp 10:00am, Sport 1:00pm, Beg 3:30 pm KIDS RACE: Free / 2:00pm

MAY 16 ADDISON OAKS SPRING MTB RACE

Leonard, Michigan Oakland County Park (248) 858-4647

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 9:00am to 1/2 hr before start

START: Beg 11:00am, Exp/Sport 1:30pm KIDS RACE: Free / 10:00am

JUNE 20 RUBY CHALLENGE

Ruby Campground, Port Huron Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00-9:30am

START: 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

JULY 18 PONTIAC LAKE CROSS-COUNTRY

Pontiac Lake Rec Area, Waterford Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start

START: 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

AUGUST 8 BLOOMER CROSS-COUNTRY

Bloomer Park, Rochester Hills Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start

START: Exp 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 2:30pm

AUGUST 15 BIG M CROSS-COUNTRY

Big M Ski Area, Manistee Piranha Productions (248) 922-0018

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start

START: Exp 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 2:00pm

AUGUST 29 PONTIAC LAKE TIME TRIAL

Pontiac Lake Rec Area, Waterford Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start START: 10:00am

KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

SEPTEMBER 12 STONEY CREEK METROPARK xc

Stoney Creek Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00-9:30am START: 10:00am

KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

SEPTEMBER 19 ADDISON OAKS FALL MTB RACE

Leonard, Michigan Oakland County Park (248) 858-4647

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 9:00am to 1/2 hr before start

START: Beg 11:00am, Exp/Sport 1:30pm KIDS RACE: Free / 10:00am

OCTOBER 17 GARLAND HAMMER XC

Garland Resort, Lewiston Larry Kinney (517) 786-2211 x1313

FEE: \$25 Pre-reg, Day of \$30 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start START: TBA

KIDS RACE: \$5 / TBA NOTES: Gourmet meal included for all paid Adult and Kids Race entrants.

OCTOBER 24 CANNONBURG CHALLENGE

Cannonburg Ski Area, Grand Rapids Fun Promotions (616) 453-4245

FEE: \$20 Pre-reg, Day of \$25 REG: 8:00am to 1/2 hr before start

START: Exp 10:00am, Sport 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm KIDS RACE: Free / 2:00pm



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Signature _____

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Name _____

M F Date of Birth _____

Class: Beginner Sport Expert Elite

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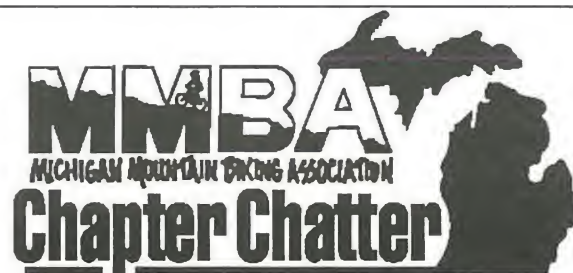
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News and Info:

Plus Special Feature -

Just Who Are The MMBA Chapter Presidents? Northeast Chapter/Todd Dewell

Greetings from the Northeast Chapter of the MMBA. Having swapped our skis and ski-doo's for our fat tire companions, the members of the Northeast Chapter are busy planning their 1999 season and have met at the Red Oak Lounge in the village of Sanford in April and May. For all of those members who could not attend we soon hope to have meeting minutes posted on the MMBA website in the near future. For our next meeting

contact me, **Todd Dewell** at: 517-345-4523.

In a nutshell for 1999 our chapter's activity will once again be focused on our trail at the **Pine Haven Recreation Area** in Sanford. We will be putting the finishing touches on our single track starting this May during National Trails Day by completing a post and plank bridge courtesy of the fine folks at **DALMC**. Also thanks to our **DALMAC** grant we



*Todd Dewell pictured above is your Northeast Chapter President of the MMBA and Chairperson of the Ogemaw Hills Ski Council in West Branch, MI. *(Photo: Lisa Lazaroff)*

all new maps for the Pine Haven property, including our very own trail. **We understand the trail is being discovered by more riders and the comments have been very positive**, especially by those who are teaching their kids to ride single track for the first time.

Future plans include the possible addition of an advanced single track loop at Pine Haven. Stay tuned for more on this. We also need to do general maintenance on our trail including brushing, clearing downed or overhanging trees and posting some additional signs on the trail as well. All of these activities are labor intensive. To all of you who have volunteered in the past, **thank you**. To all of you who have not, **we need you!!!** Please do your part. To any racers or those just interested in the mountain biking race scene in our Northeast Chapter area, we are looking for a chapter representative on the MMBA's race committee. Here is your opportunity to get involved. Please either show up at one of our meetings or give one of us a call for details. We would love to have you on-board. Remember, the world is run by those who show up. Please get involved in a positive way, however, and wherever you can. Thanks, Todd Dewell, Northeast Chapter President.

(Chatter continued next pg.)

*(All Chapter President/Director Photos: By Lisa Lazaroff)



Publication Director
Dwain Abramowski
Editorial Assistance

Christina-as always thank you
Contributing Writers/Editors/Info
Lisa Lazaroff, Ric Jerrell, IMBA, Todd Dewell,
Jason Jones, and IMBA

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Support Support and more Support-Christina
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Contributing Graphics/Artwork
Dan Clark/Dwain

Music

Robert Cray/
Crosby, Stills, Nash
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a limited universe with unlimited potential
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This mag. is printed on recycled paper
"...covered in tree tops, covered in birds who
can sing a million songs without any words..."

Michigan Mountain Biking Association
4217 Highland Rd #268
Waterford, MI 48328

Executive Director/Bent Rim Bugle (BRB)

P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306

Phone: 616.785.0120

Fax: 616.785.1940

email: gommmba@aol.com

web: www.mmmba.org

MMBA Listserv: mmmba@cyclimg.org

Bent Rim Bugle Publishing Info

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) (established in 1986 by Craig Stutzky, Bonnie Alsum and Steve Pnnett) comes out 4 times a year around spring, summer, fall and winter. Dwain Abramowski took over production in the early 1990's with a focus on behalf of the needs of the MMBA. The BRB has become a source for news and information for the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA). Articles come from MMBA members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other sources. The focus of the BRB is on what is of interest to MMBA members as well as education on environmental issues, land access, mountain biking events, rides, competition, other activities and information related to mountain biking and the outdoors, but most of all just info & fun, fun, fun.

Editorial contributions and photos are welcomed but cannot be returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306. The BRB also can provide classified ads to MMBA members for free and advertising space to shops and manufacturer members at reduced rates. For deadlines and rates contact the address/e-mail/web site above or call, 616.785.0120.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, DNR, Forest Service, MMBA members, dealers and/or sponsors. Due to space limitations, all articles/info may be edited ... In other words it's mountain biking not world hunger.... Copyright, May 1999, all rights reserved ... including but not limited to all etc.... "teach your parents well"....



(continued from last page)

Southeast Chapter: Todd Scott

Southeastern Chapter member, **Doni Fall** has been very busy redesigning our 1999-2000 MMBA statewide membership applications. Doni, with the help of **Lisa Lazaroff** of the Mid-state chapter also made sure our 1999 handbook was ready earlier this year. The handbook was another success with updated trail info and great maps.

Thank you Doni (and Lisa) for your invaluable help in putting out these MMBA materials.

The Southeast has also been working on many projects, including Stony Creek, reroutes at Maybury, as well as working on metro path development in **South Lyon** and elsewhere in the Detroit-metro area. Todd welcomes your help and you can find out more by looking in the handbook, checking out the MMBA website or contacting **Todd at: 248-288-3753**.

Pontiac Lake Chapter: Tim Collins

The Pontiac Lake Chapter is looking forward to another great year of mountain biking! Because of the DNR trail construction moratorium, plans for segregating the horse and bike trails at **Pontiac Lake** are put on hold indefinitely. In the meantime, riders are reminded to be courteous when approaching horses, and to stay off trails that are designated for horses only.

The chapter has several dates planned for maintenance of existing trails: 6/5 at Bloomer Park (National Trails Day), 7/17 at Pontiac Lake, 7/31 at Bloomer Park, and 8/28 at Pontiac Lake. Anyone who rides these trails is strongly encouraged to come on out and spend a few hours keeping the trails in good shape. See the web site for more detailed information on times and locations.

On May 9th, Pontiac Lake was the site of another great time trial race put on by **Tailwind Enterprises and the chapter's own Robert Linden**. A portion of the proceeds from



Todd Scott

Southeast Chapter President of the MMBA

I walked into a bike shop in 1991 to buy a new tube for my Schwinn Varsity and ended up buying a Specialized Rockhopper. I joined the MMBA that summer, divorced the TV and married the bike. I bought a second bike in 1992 and did my first Point Series race on it the next day. I have a high tolerance for pain and a low tolerance for monotony. For more details, surf my web site : <http://www.luckyfish.com>

every race at Pontiac Lake goes directly to the MMBA Pontiac Lake Chapter. Thanks Robert!

Attention all women! Weekly women's rides are scheduled throughout the entire season for women of all abilities. Rides take place Monday evenings at 6pm. The location rotates between **Maybury, Island lake, Bald Mountain, and Holdridge**. For more information, contact **Carol Johnston at (248)681-2822, or email to: cajster@ameritech.net.**

This Just In

There has been some unauthorized trail work at Pontiac Lake over the last couple of weeks. The "personality" of this trail is being destroyed day by day. Last Friday, someone spent hours removing a large boulder (100 lbs.+) on the climb to Campground Hill. Logs that we have been riding for years, have been removed. Roots are being cut out, live trees are being cut down. Every other day this activity is taking place.

This is not the work of the MMBA. I believe it is the handy work of one person, possibly someone with the assumption they are helping and definitely someone with the objective of making the trail smooth. It may even be the work of other trail users, i.e. hikers, equestrians, runners, etc. Anyway, I have news for you. **You are destroying the trail! Roots, rocks and other natural obstacles combat erosion. Do not remove them!**

(chatter continued on pg. 6)



2nd Annual Bike Festival

All new for 1999



- ♦ A three day event!

Friday: 7:00pm Aug. 13th

Michigan Single Speed

State Championship Bike Race.

- ♦ All new for 1999 and the millennium to come, a bike event guaranteed to put a new dimension on off-road bike racing.
- ♦ A fixed gear or single speed bike race.
- ♦ For \$10. A winner takes all, in one of two class' sport men or sport women. (Cash purse based on number of participants.)

Sat: 11:00 am. Aug. 14th



Trials Bike Exhibit

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- ♦ Come watch these tricked out bikes and talented riders, take their handling skills to the limit. Jumping and riding over obstacles we wouldn't even walk over!

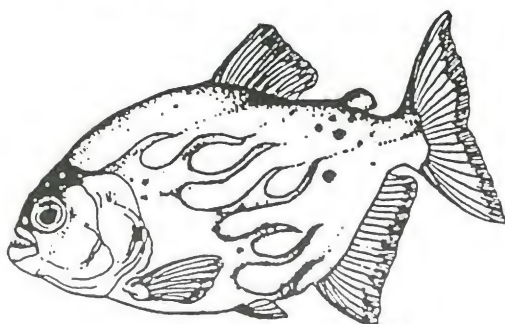
4:00pm. Aug. 14th



Now comes fun for every one. A scavenger hunt in the woods, with a twist.

Sun: 8:00am Aug. 15th

- ♦ The moment we been waiting for registration opens for the cross-country race.
- ♦ For more info contact: Piranha Production



248-922-0018

PO BOX: 731

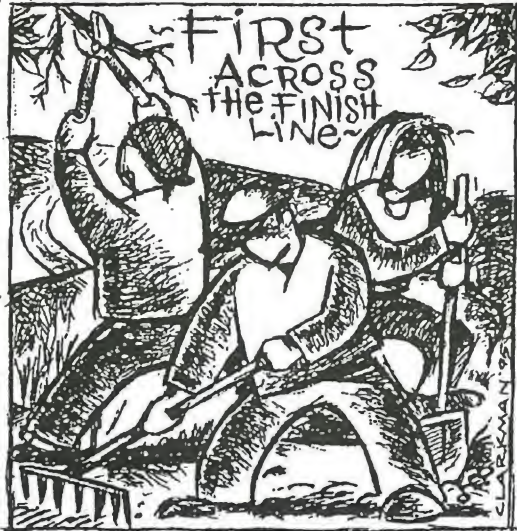
Clarkston, Mi. 48347

Attention All Trail Volunteers!

MMBA/WTB

Trail Maintenance Sponsorship

First Across The Finish Line 1999



Wilderness Trail Bikes is proud to be a sponsor of the 1999 MMBA First Across The Finish Line Trail Maintenance Program, and recognizes the hard work and dedication that Volunteers put in to keep trails open and to build new trails. Congratulations are in order to all trail workers who did their part and helped to make mountain biking better for everyone. You are the first ones out to clear and repair the trails after winter is over. You are the first ones to lend a friendly hand and to reach out to other trail users. You are the ones who brave the bugs and the mud and the heat to make sure that the trails are ready to ride. Day after day. Year after year. **Wilderness Trail Bikes** salutes you! You do the sport justice!

First Across The Finish Line Awards:

- Volunteers with 10 hours of trail work will be eligible for awards
- All riders will benefit from better trails
- Trail volunteer hours will be tallied more efficiently and info sent to IMBA/DNR/USFS/etc.
- The program will continue to develop and enhance our volunteer relationship with land managers around the state
- It will increase involvement in the MMBA
- It will increase visibility and inspire involvement of all mountain bikers in the MMBA
- It will just plain add to the fun factor of being a member of the MMBA!



WTB will provide \$1,000 of WTB products to sponsor the Chapter Volunteers of the Year category (total of 9 winners.) The awards are to be given out in February of 2000.



(continued from last page)

Unauthorized trail work does not help the reputation of mountain bikers at Pontiac. We must apply to the DNR for use permits to do work. Also the MMBA has liability insurance for scheduled work days only. I have had several individuals brag about doing trail work on their own. **Don't do it! You don't know what you are doing and you don't have permission to do it.**

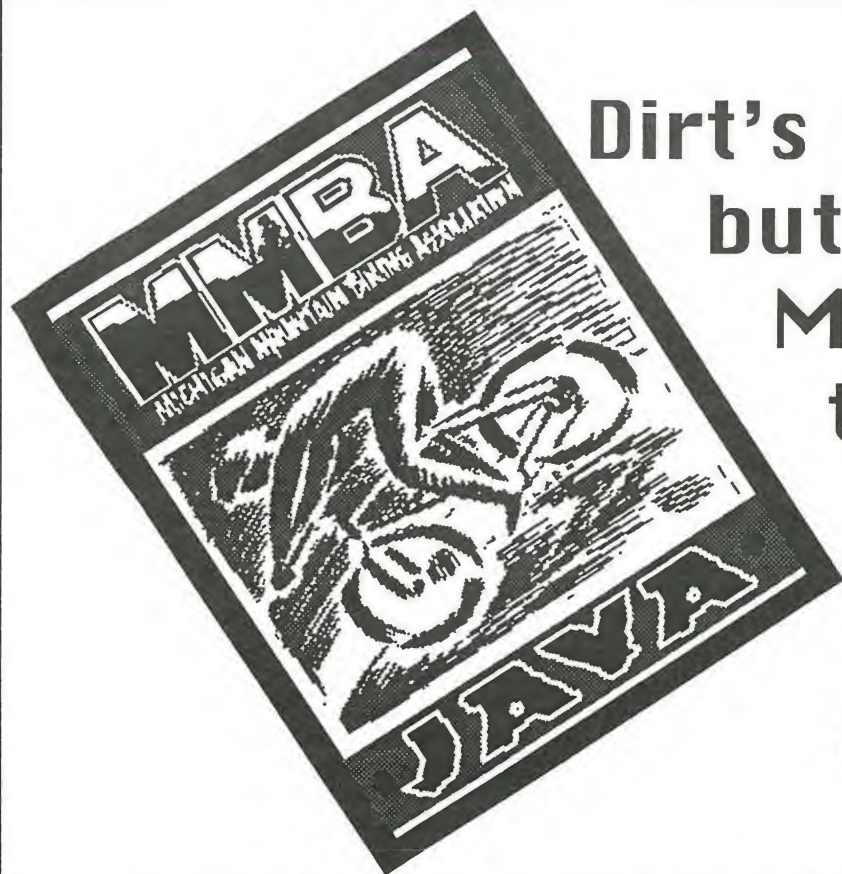
I'm sure this is not the activity of anyone who subscribes to the list-serve or even reads the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB). But chances are one of you have seen them or will see them. Please, if you see anyone doing work or on the trail with tools, explain that they are not helping and why. If this does not persuade them, report them to the park management. If you should know this person(s), please contact the MMBA (616)-785-0120 or the Park Manager.



Tim Collins - Pontiac Lake Chapter President

After knee surgery ended my basketball, running, weight-lifting and skiing activities in 1992, I was told cycling and swimming were my only options for exercise. I bought my first mountain bike while living in Lansing, but barely rode it (because of lack of trails at that time in the area) until I moved to Oakland County in 1995. My childhood BMX background, along with my athletically-minded wife, allowed me to convince Karey that mountain bike racing was for us. When not on my bike I am partners in a growing automotive engineering consulting business.

(chatter continued on page 12)



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but,
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tastes great!**



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***5 pounds of custom roasted coffee \$30.00 plus S&H**

Freshness is a big concern when dealing with perishable items. For this reason the company that supplies our custom roasted coffee does not warehouse the MMBA blend. Any coffee that is ordered, is roasted, packaged and shipped within days. That means you are receiving the absolute freshest coffee. The custom MMBA coffee is roasted in small batches in European PROBAT roasters. All of the roasts are done under close supervision. Each and every roast brings out the coffee's brilliant and unique flavors.

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in the MMBA Points Series. They
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and check them out today. See
stores for details of 10% program.

(*copy-ready black and white art works the best.)



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Meet the MMBA's 2000/2000/2000 vision.**

2000 members by the year 2000, and

\$2,000

to the member that does the most to get us there!

That's right! The MMBA has nearly 1,600 members and has 2000 members in its sight, and we want it bad. So bad, that we will shell out \$2,000 cold hard cash to the MMBA member that refers the most members between June 1, 1999 and January 1, 2000.*

So, how does it work? Just get your bud, the milkman, the neighbor's grandmother, your company or anyone else into mountain biking to join the MMBA and you get a point(s) when they write your name as the referring member on their membership application. We do the math. On January 1, 2000, if you have the most points, you win two grand to buy that titanium dream bike, take a trip to Moab, or just stuff in your back pocket when you ride. It's your choice, because only your voice can best express the reasons for your fellow bikers to support the MMBA!

* Certain conditions apply. For complete details, please read the official contest rules carefully - next page.

2000/2000 Official Contest Rules

(The fine Print -Read Carefully)

1. No purchase is necessary. The contest is open those MMBA members in good standing who are legal residents of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia or any territories of the United States, and who are 18 years of age or older at the time points begin to accumulate. Any membership class may participate in this contest. The contest is also open to officers of any of the 9 local MMBA chapters, except the chapter President. Other than as set forth in these rules, officers, directors, employees of the MMBA or their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the Millennium Membership Challenge.
2. The contest begins at 12am, Tuesday, June 1, 1999 and runs until 11pm, Friday, December 31, 1999. All referring applications must be postmarked or received by the MMBA Membership Secretary no later than 11 pm on December 31, 1999. The MMBA assumes no liability for lost, late, misdirected, damaged, illegible, or postage-due mail or applications.
3. All applications for membership in the MMBA must include the new member's full name, address, phone number, chapter affiliation, membership class (individual, family, or organizational/business), AND the clear legible name of the existing MMBA member who referred the applicant. New members may also apply for membership online at the MMBA's web site (<http://www.MMBA.org>), provided that the information indicated above is provided.
4. Points Calculations: For each individual and family membership referral, the referring member shall receive 1 point. For each organizational membership referral, the existing member shall receive 2 points. The referring member must be officially entered in the membership database before any referral points will begin to accrue (i.e. if applications come in that identify you as the existing referring member before you have become a member of the MMBA, you will not receive credit for those points). Contest participants receive no points for their own membership. Points shall be awarded only for referring new members, not for members who renew their membership. For purposes of this contest, a new member is one who has not been a member of the MMBA at any time.
5. Prizes Awarded: No prize will be awarded unless the following conditions are met: the MMBA must reach its target goal of at least 1,700 members by January 1, 2000, AND at least 100 new members must join the MMBA between 12am, Tuesday, June 1, 1999 and 11pm, Friday, December 31, 1999.
If the above conditions are satisfied, only one prize will only be awarded to the all-around top point recipient in all combined membership classes. The winner will receive a check in the amount of US \$2,000. Winner selection is under the supervision of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Inc., whose decisions are final. Winner consents to use of his or her name and likeness in any promotional material. In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected in a random drawing of the names of the members who have referred the most new members by the close of the contest.
6. Odds of Winning: The total number of eligible entries received will determine the odds of winning. Taxes, where applicable, are the sole responsibility of the winner. For the winner's name, (available January 31, 2000), send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope to MMBA Millennium Membership Challenge, Post Office Box 29, Belmont, MI, 49306.
7. The MMBA will notify the potential winner by mail or telephone at the address or telephone number contained in the MMBA membership database. The potential winner must follow directions contained in any correspondence and return all forms correctly completed within 10 days of the date of correspondence. Correspondence may include a release of liability form. Noncompliance will result in disqualification, and the naming of an alternate winner.
8. The contest is sponsored by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Inc.,
Post Office Box 29, Belmont, MI 49306.

(continued from pg. 6)

Holly / Flint Chapter

(By Rick Jerrell)

Many of you may know via the information on the MMBA listserve that tragedy struck the Holly/Flint Chapter and all those who enjoy mountain biking on May 1, 1999. The Holly/Flint Chapter, the MMBA, mountain bikers throughout the State, friends and family lost part of its heart...part of its soul. **Ed Berta**, our Chapter Secretary was killed, as he was volunteering his time to participate in the Adopt-a-Road Program Event held by our Chapter. He was struck by a car, as he attempted to cross a section of Grange Hall Rd. in Holly, near the Holdridge Lakes Mountain Bike Trail System. Our chapter lost a close friend. He held the position of chapter secretary, designed and kept up our chapter web-page and helped organize work days. Holdridge Lakes lost a friend because of his passion to keep the trails open. Ed spent most Saturday mornings on the trail, trimming, pruning and repairing the trail. The MMBA lost a friend, as he started moving forward with the Mountain Kids Program and had started getting involved not only on the chapter, but state level. Mountain bikers lost a friend because he set an example for each of us to follow by giving something back to trails he so dearly loved. His friends lost a buddy, a racer, a supporter, a true competitor and a fellow rider. But, the greatest loss is to Terri, his wife and Jennifer and Lauren his daughters. They have truly lost parts of their hearts and souls. To you Terri, Jennifer and Lauren and the entire Berta Family, rest assured you are in our thoughts and prayers. And to you Ed, you still are my right-hand man and we all know your working on trails in heaven!

More info: Lisa Lazaroff, president of the Mid-state Chapter of the MMBA has graciously stepped in and is heading up the Mountain Kids Program. She would love to have your input and support for this noble and worthwhile program. Just contact her at 517-782-9093 or the MMBA at 616-785-0120.

A memorial fund for Ed has also been set up and donations can be sent to the: Holly/Flint Chapter of the MMBA 711 Sherman St. Holly, MI 48442. (Please make checks payable to: Holly/Flint Chapter MMBA)

More Holly/Flint Info:

The Holly/Flint Chapter of the MMBA

(chatter continued next page)



Ed (right) measuring for cement slab around new pump at Holdridge Lakes
(Photos on this page from the Holly/Flint Chapter of the MMBA)



Ed (right) working with the Mountain Kids Program



Ed on the trail.

**In
Memory
of Ed
Berta
1963-1999**

(chatter from last page)

received a check for \$5,054.00 from the **Modern Woodsmen of America** recently. **Jan Miller presented the funds, her husband works for the fraternal organization.**

Each year the company sponsors a \$2,500 matching grant to a community organization, such as the community band shell and Holly Youth Assistance programs.

This recent donation will fund the construction of a pavilion near the mountain bike trail off Hess Road. To get the Woodsmen donation, the MMBA had to raise an additional \$2,500. That money came from a \$2,500 grant to the Holly/Flint Chapter from the **DALMAC Fund which has helped with MMBA projects and activities all across the state.** DALMAC funds are raised each year by the Lansing based organization through a ride from Lansing to the Mackinaw Bridge, enjoyed by thousands over the years.

The pavilion is one of many improvements the association has made to the bike trail/parking lot, since it reclaimed the abandoned trail in 1993. Today, the 25 mile path is a popular place for mountain bike enthusiasts, attracting people from around the state and country. Even with the major improvements to the parking lot made by the Holly/Flint Chapter of the MMBA, the enlarged lot still overflows with trail users on busy summer weekends.

Southwest Chapter President Mike (Mikey) Needham

.....Candy, little girl?

.....Candy, little boy?

(By Judy Milroy)

The Southwest Chapter already promotes the excellent MMBA Benefit race, **The Fort Custer Stampede**, which is put on each year to benefit the Fort Custer Area trails and MMBA activities. They also host major involvement in the **Annual dirtstock® Mountain Bike Festival**. Now the motivated nature of the Southwest Chapter continues its **fund-raising expertise with the MMBA/Grand Island Partnership.**

Hobby Beich, founder of the Friends of the Island Foundation (Grand Island, off the coast of Munising in Michigan's Upper Peninsula), made a presentation to the MMBA Board of Directors at the annual meeting in February. Hobby spent summers on the island during his youth and has a great love of the place. The National Forest Service, which is generally supportive of the recreational mountain biking, is the present custodian of the Grand Island.

It is apply named: lots of grand single track, lots of grand views, lots of fun. You can go



Rick Jerrell has been helping out with the Holly/Flint chapter for years and recently became president of the chapter. The improvements to the trails in the Holly/Flint area can be directly related to Rick's work and the core group of workers he has been a part of for years.

anytime, but the real fun ride is the first weekend of October when there is a possibility of sun, warm temperatures, sleet, snow, wintry gales; all in the same day if not the same hour. Been there, done that!

Hobby proposed that the MMBA chapters hold a candy sale and split the commission 50/50 between the MMBA and the Friends of the Island Foundation. Funds raised by the Foundation are turned over to the National Forest Service, which matches them. The current project is to restore the Old Beich homestead so visitors can rent a room for overnight stays.

So far, Hobby and I have decided to sell chocolate at the **Yankee Springs Race** and at the **Fort Custer Stampede** and have met with much success for both the MMBA and the Friends of the Island Foundation. **Look for us at upcoming events! We would like to know if there are any other volunteers out there who would like to set up a "chocolate table" to benefit Grand Island and the MMBA. You can call Hobby at 1-800-331-4691 and leave a message if he is not there and he will call you about how to participate in this benefit sale. Each candy bar is \$1.00 the 50 cents profit is split between the MMBA and the**

Foundation. So, why not become a candy man or candy woman and help the MMBA and the Friends of the Island Foundation....**it's a sweet job!!!!**

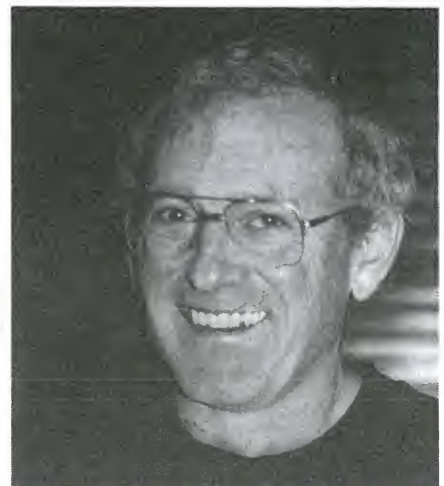
Now, go and ride Grand Island in 1999, it'll be the Grandest Ride of the Century!

How Little Mikey Learned to Ride a Mountain Bike....

Little Mikey (me) learned to ride a bike at six years old by begging rides from friends at school on their bikes. Not having a bike of my own only made the desire to have one stronger. My big chance came at the age of 10 when the neighbors moved to the country and Butch, now old enough to drive, didn't want his bicycle any more. A deal was struck. I would help with the move in exchange for the bike.

It was no prize. But it was mine. The chain was the major missing link. Get it! It was the rare double link type used by the Wright brothers on their bikes. Finding one in 1957 probably wasn't as hard as it would be today. I found one just a block away at the Augusta Basket Handle Factory. Friday Chambers didn't have a master link for it but he did grind the rivets off a couple of side links and my uncle Bob helped me join the

(chatter continued next page)



Mike (Mikey) Neeham is the president of the Southwest Chapter of the MMBA. He has been known to both race around the trail at events and race to take care of the trails at the beck and call of the DNR.

(chatter continued from last page)

chain with brass nuts and bolts. The bike, now rideable, fit terribly. I had to arch to my tip toes for a fractional inch of clearance between me and the bike. The saddle but a lofty goal. The bike was a deluxe model. It had strong fenders that peaked at the top to form a "v" and you could see where a light and tail reflector had once been mounted in the traces of paint still left. The bike was heavy. It had a rear rack, tanks, a spring saddle, and a springer front fork. Best of all, it had huge Balloon tires. In 1957, Augusta had only two paved streets. Balloon tires were a definite asset.

I spent much of my time torn between riding my prize possession and fixing it. My thumbs were raw from sanding rusty parts and painting them with red lead and enamel. I bought royal blue and white and mixed the two for light blue so I could have three colors. I took pieces off and spray painted them one or two at a time, with Grandpa's insect sprayer. Whoosh. . . whoosh. . . whoosh, more blisters.

When it was done it looked much better, but it was hopelessly out of style. The English Racers were in vogue and the lucky kids were getting theirs as gifts. English Racers was a general term used to describe all foreign made bikes. With lightweight, skinny tires, and gear shifts, it seemed no one could do without. Except me, that is. I wasn't allowed all over town and my bike was better suited to riding the cinders along the railroad tracks where I was permitted to ride. It was about a mile each way to the coal chute from Grandma's house. My prize possession, my bicycle, would carry me to adulthood. At 16, I gave my bike to my brother and bought a car.

By 1968 I was 21, out of the Navy, and a father of two. Like most young people, I abandoned cycling for an automobile, but longing for a piece of youth I returned to cycling. I bought a three year old Schwinn Collegiate five speed for twenty bucks. As my kids and their cousins began to cycle I began to look for a safe place where we could ride. **We found that place to be Fort Custer.** But not just the recreation area, there were hundreds of things to explore by bicycle in the Fort Custer Industrial Park, the Fort Custer Army National Guard Training Grounds, and the Veterans Administration Hospital.

As a parent I felt secure riding those rustic trails compared with the worry of sharing public roads with motorists. **It was my children that brought the first mountain bikes into this family.** I stayed with my 25 year old Schwinn too long. It had about 13,000 miles on it when I joined Cathy and Mike Jr. and became a mountain biker!



President of the Western Chapter: Marty Jones. You'll know it is him out on the Bass River Trail or at the Deep Lake Loop at Yankee Springs because he is so proud of his ugly green Ibis ride. Marty took up the reins of the Western Chapter this year.



Joseph Yannie has taken the post of MMBA Championship Points Series Director. He is the person you'll want to talk to and thank underneath the MMBA tent at all the MMBA CPS races this season.



Lisa Lazaroff is the MMBA Mid-state president. She is also seen at many MMBA events taking pictures of riders and MMBA members. She is the photo creativity behind many of the best pictures found in the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB). She has also volunteered to coordinate the Mountain Kids Activities and is actively selling candy for the benefit of the MMBA and Grand Island.



MMBA

(michigan mountain biking association)

enter

The Official MMBA Website:

www.mmba.org

Up to the minute info, maps, chapter activities and more!

A few notes and updates:

A thank you was forgotten in the last issue of the BRB to **Piranha Productions** for their support of the 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting. They supplied set up support and the podium for our winners and volunteers to stand on. **Thank you Piranha!**

Charitable Donations for the Trails for Tomorrow Campaign from last fall continue to come in. Thank you to:

Tyler, Brooke and Haley Lehner
Rick Biggins



Robin Scurr is your MMBA Membership Director extraordinaire. He helps coordinate, track and organize the huge membership list of MMBA members, land managers, government officials, affiliated mountain bike associations and publications. He also takes care of the MMBA racers lists and manages the MMBA Annual Meeting membership activities. Robin has been at his post for many years and resides in the Pontiac Area.



Jason Aric Jones is your MMBA Statewide President. Jason has been an involved member of the Potawatomi Chapter of the MMBA for many years and for the last several years has served at the state level. Jason has helped set the course of MMBA success with hard work and attention to detail. Jason also started the Mountain Kids Program and enjoys the MMBA CPS.



Dwain Abramowski is your current Executive Director and a founding member of the MMBA. For over ten years has served the MMBA in various positions including President, trail coordinator, newsletter director, secretary, chief cook and bottle washer. He is a published author, written for many recreational magazines and serves on numerous recreational committees for the DNR, NFS and other organizations. He is also your IMBA State Representative.

Wait! There Are Some Folks Missing?

In this initial introduction of who's who in the MMBA, the Photos for **Tom Nell, MMBA Treasurer** and **Robert Hurly, Poto Chapter President** were not available and their MMBA connections will be celebrated in the next issue of the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB).



Though the similarities are striking, these three individuals are not the same ones on the wall at your local post office. In fact, without their help you would not be riding on trails in Michigan today. **Bud Pell** (left) is responsible for the local efforts to secure the opening of Maybury and maintains it even today on a regular basis. He has also helped design Bass River on the west side of the state, Ionia, Island Lake and many other trails. He has been the MMBA Volunteer of the Year, regularly attends MMBA Board meetings and has received numerous other volunteer awards in his community.

Dennis Hansen (middle) is a Charter Member of the MMBA, former president of the MMBA, Former MMBA Mid-State President, and the MMBA main trail information contact. He is the author and publisher of the Trail Atlas of Michigan, a columnist for Michigan Cyclist Magazine and contributor to the BRB. Since the early 80's he's been involved with DNR activities as a past and current member of citizen committees for DNR related trail issues. His day job is a Landscape Architect and Site Construction Superintendent for Michigan State University and his "claim to fame" is that in 1988-89 he reestablished the abandoned hiking trail at Island Lake Recreation Area.

Dave Heyboer (right) is the current MMBA State Board Chairperson. Dave has been one of the most instrumental forces in keep the Cannonsburg Game Area open in Western MI. Dave has given thousands of hours to the MMBA and supplied equipment and other resources to trail care activities all across the state.

Get Back-To-Basics on LWCF!

Let's Educate Congress about the Three Rs of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

by Jim Hasenauer

LWCF Initiatives are on the move. But, even as the recess bell rings for the summer on Capitol Hill, we need to send Congress a message on the successful way to revitalize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Several bills have been introduced in Congress that would include full and permanent funding for LWCF. Among the bills are H.R. 701 and S. 25, both entitled "The Conservation and Reinvestment Act" (CARA); H.R. 798 and S. 446, both entitled "Permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000"; and H.R. 1118 and S. 532, both entitled "Public Land and Recreation Investment Act". Legislation is moving fast and we need to send a message to our Members of Congress that there is a simple plan for successfully revitalizing LWCF!

Back-to-Basics Plan for LWCF:

The bills before Congress approach full and permanent funding for LWCF in different ways. The CARA bills, especially, include unnecessary

restrictions on LWCF's federal program and would not allow Members of Congress the flexibility to continue the 35-year old tradition of conservation and recreation protection. Since 1965, LWCF has been responsible for the acquisition of nearly seven million acres of parkland and open space and the development of more than 37,000 state and local parks and recreation projects. We need to get "back-to-basics" to revitalize this vital cornerstone of American conservation and recreation during the legislative process by advocating the "Three R's" of the Land and Water Conservation Fund:

1. Restore full and permanent funding for LWCF with an equitable distribution of \$900 million between its federal and state-matching grants programs.
2. Resist restrictions on federal LWCF, especially those that limit acquisition to federal inholdings or adjacent lands, employ arbitrary geographic restrictions on the use of funds, require new authorizations, or prevent condemnation.
3. Revive state and local recreation by protecting the traditional use of stateside funds for

recreation enhancement. In addition, support a revived and substantially funded Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR).

Remember, incentives for additional offshore oil and gas leasing, exploration, or development must not be included in any LWCF legislation.

What You Can Do

Please write your member of Congress and urge them to support the "Back to Basics" plan for revitalizing LWCF. Ask them to back the "Three R's" of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Within the letter, make sure you indicate exactly what the "Three R's" consist of using the above points in your letter. Ask them to write you back and let you know if they support the plan. You can write your Member at:

The Honorable _____
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Please write today!


Remember You Must Have A Pass!

Beginning May 15, 1999, a **Huron Manistee National Forest Vehicle Pass** will be required for vehicles parked at certain designated sites, including some river access sites, dispersed camping areas, and non-motorized trailheads. **Users have the option of obtaining one of the following: \$3 daily pass, \$5 weekly pass, or a \$20 annual pass.** Golden Age Passport holders will receive a 50% discount on annual passes from Forest Service offices. For individuals unable to afford the fee, arrangements can be made to earn an annual pass by volunteering their time through the Forest Service Volunteer Program. Call Rose Ingram, Recreation Program Manager at (616)775-2421 or your local district office: John Hojnowski/Manistee (616)723-2211/ John Huschke/Baldwin (616)745-463 / Sandy Caveney/Mio (517)826-3252/ Nick Schmelter/Oscoda (517)739 0728


Recreation Fee Demonstration Projects

North Country National Scenic Trail: Marilla/Udell/Bowman Lake /M-20 Trailheads

Additional Trailheads: Big M/Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary/Bowman Lake/Hoist Lake East & West/ Reid Lake/Corsair/Wakeley Lake



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ride **Up**
North?




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Visitors Bureau**



The Presidential Tread

do is go to the trailhead any weekend and look around. Old, young, short, fat, dark, light....they're all mountain biking nowadays.

On second thought, maybe this myth is hard to dispel. I mean....does more of our society:

- 1.) Watch TV, or
- 2.) Use park and rec areas.....ughh, maybe the prospects are bleak here.

Myth: Mountain bikers aren't in it for the nature.

Naw, we're just in it for the Mountain Dew. Thanks again, X-Games. One detractor once stated that the only nature a mountain biker can see while climbing hills in the lowest gear is the dirt in front of them and their sweat dripping on their front tire. To think - all this

time I've wasted at various trails. I could have just set up a wind trainer in my dirt floored "Michigan" basement. Do you think this is why you don't see as many hikers at the rec areas nowadays relative to bikers? I mean, maybe bikers are just slow learners.

Are hundreds of hikers pacing in their basements, sweat dripping from their brow from the weight of carrying a 40 lb. pack?? Call Unsolved Mysteries, now we know where they've been.

Myth: Mountain Biking is dangerous.

Dangerous relative to what? Relative to playing golf? Relative to trying to hold a bagel and cut it in half? In the words of Einstein, "Everything is relative."

So, let's compare apples to apples...recreational activity on public land to recreational activity on public land. Let's start out with some of the largest "trail" user groups in Michigan other than mountain bikers. How about hunters?

How about snowmobilers? Is mountain

biking more or less dangerous than these activities? Hmm. While I don't have hard statistics in front of me, I can't remember the last time I heard of someone being killed or critically injured on a mountain bike on a trail on Michigan's public lands. I can't however, recall a firearms deer season or winter where I didn't hear about a hunter being shot, or a snowmobiler being killed "in action". (Disclaimer Note: To the all mighty MUCC and Snowmobile lobby, I have nothing against hunters or snowmobiles. I luv ya man, but facts is facts.)

A final note of irony on the final "myth" of this piece. I once had a Michigan DNR Parks and Rec District Supervisor tell me that one of the reasons Parks and Rec Division needed to be more "proactive" regarding mountain bike use on the trails was to mitigate the potential for dangerous injuries. I remember it well as he stated to me, "If we can save just one life, don't you think it is worth it (to be proactive)?" Say what? Well, if anyone ever doubted the power of the MUCC....



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Gaylord, Michigan 49735

517-732-5081

The MMBA Is Seeking A Marketing Director.

The MMBA is currently working with local, regional and national industry and organization leaders on project for the 1999-2000 year and could use the help of an individual to share the work load. If you would like to help the MMBA secure the resources needed to continue our national leadership role in advocacy and amateur sports development please contact the MMBA office at: 616-785-0120 or Jason Aric Jones, MMBA President at 734-426-7581



IMBA/Subaru Trail Care Crew



I·M·B·A Land Manager

To Join Call: 888-442-IMBA

Seminar

Thursday - July 29

10a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Attention All Land Managers and MMBA Trail
Care Coordinators**

Mike and Jan Riter will return to Michigan from July 29 through August 2 to share with all those who are involved in trail care and development the latest techniques and trail management practices. There will be a special trail care seminar on July 29 in Cadillac Michigan at the **Carl C. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center at Mitchell St. Park. Mitchell State Park is located at M-55 and M-115 in Cadillac.** The seminar will run from 10am to 4pm. The event is scheduled to be covered on the Internet and may be available live to those who have video conferencing opportunities.

Mike and Jan will have an audio/video presentation, hands on activities and more. There will also be an opportunity for going out on a local trail for some on-site observations and activities. Again, it should be noted that plans are being made to carry the whole seminar live on the Internet and provide those who cannot attend in person video conferencing opportunities for much of the program. We'll keep you posted with details.

Please fill out the information/reservation form below as space is limited. All land managers, public and private and MMBA Trail Care Coordinators are highly encouraged to attend. For more information call 616-785-0120.



(photo by Lisa Lazaroff)

SUBARU 
The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive.™

Jan and Mike Riter will be in the Michigan Area July 29 through August 2. Arrangements can be made to have them come to one of your trail care events to advise your local members on trail development, speak to groups in your community and/or participate in a group ride. Please contact your local chapter president or call the MMBA office for more information at: 616-785-0120.

Yes, I (we) will plan on attending this unique and special opportunity for trail related care and development.

Date: July 29 - 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

**At the: Carl C. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center
Mitchell State Park
Cadillac, MI 49601**

Organization / Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

All persons interested in trail development are welcome!

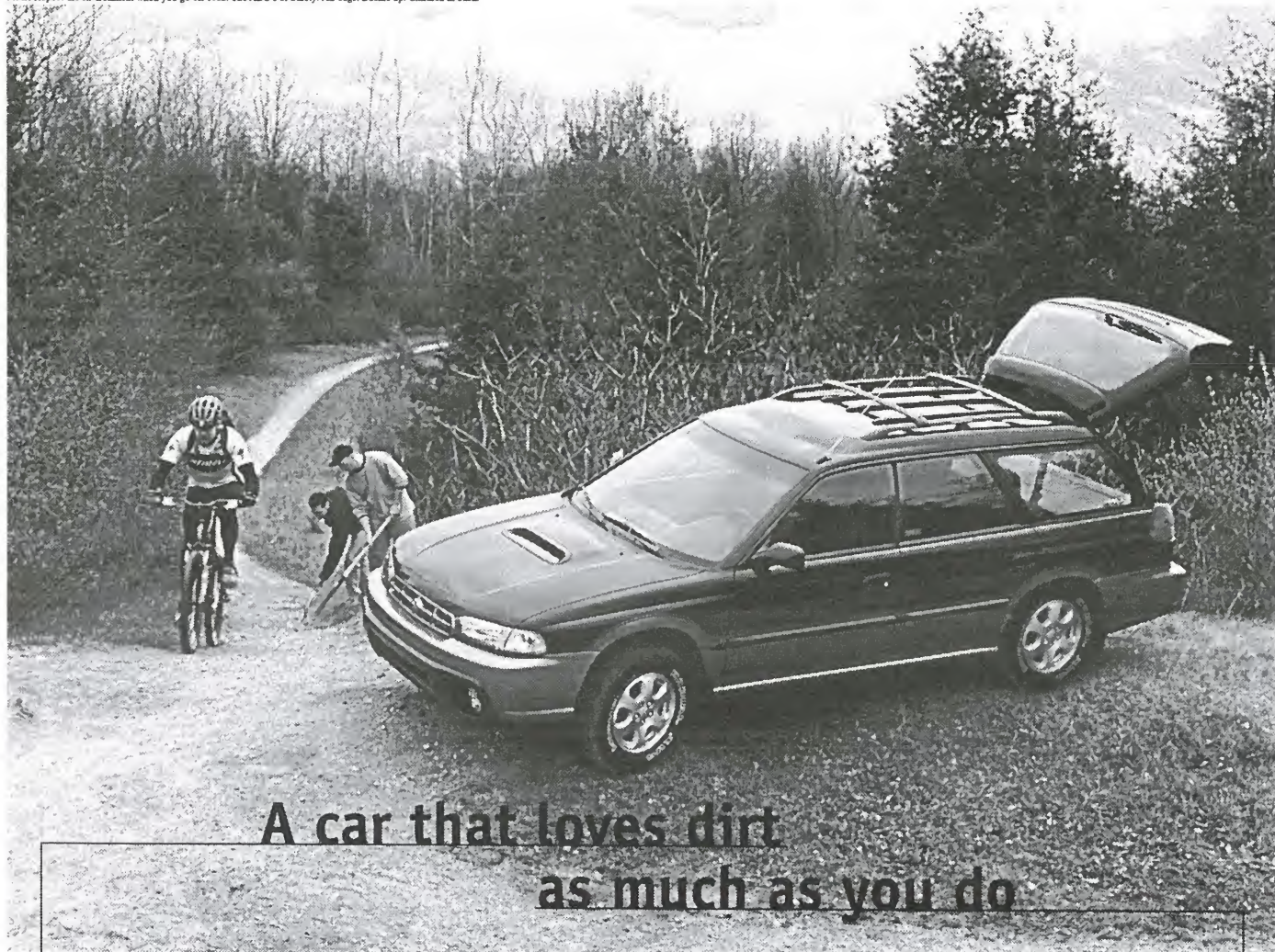
*Number: Attending: _____

Representing:

- ☐ National Forest Service
- ☐ Michigan DNR State Parks
& Recreation Personnel
- ☐ Michigan DNR State
Forest Personnel
- ☐ County, City, Township
Trail Coordinator
- ☐ MMBA Trail Coordinator
- ☐ Other _____

Mail To: MMBA Trail Seminar, P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306

Fax To: 616-785-0120 E-mail To: gommmba@aol.com *seminar limited to 40 persons sign-up early!



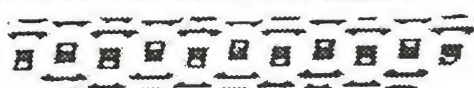
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SUBARU 

The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive®



The Presidential Tread

Mountain Bike Mythology: Dispelling Old Falsehoods

by Jason Aric Jones,
MMBA President

As the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division begins an effort toward developing a "master plan" in its Recreation Area trail systems, I believe it is important for us to reexamine some popular anti-mountain bike lore. Why? Well, as the planning process develops, some of the popular mythology that our mountain biking predecessors worked so hard to dispel may resurface. As a mountain biker, you'll need to arm yourself with the facts, in order to combat the fiction. So, let's jump right in.

Myth: Mountain biking causes trail erosion.

Trail usage causes trail erosion. Any user on the trail will have a direct impact on the trail. Some trails, especially those cut under ancient "fall line" construction techniques, are more

susceptible to user impacts. Mountain biking is a type of use, therefore has an impact on the trail. The implication of this myth is that mountain biking causes more impact than other types of trail use, leading to more erosion. Studies have been done that show that this is not the case. **Joseph Seney, in his now infamous 1990 trail impacts study, concluded that the impact of a mountain bike on trail sediment displacement was not substantially different than that of a hiking boot.** In truth, the part of this myth's equation that is usually overlooked is volume. To demonstrate how volume is overlooked here, let's examine a common argument of detractors of mountain biking at the Potawatomi Trail in Pinckney Recreation Area.

ation Area.

The typical line goes something like this: "I've used this trail for 25 years. Back in the mid-eighties, before mountain biking became big out here, the Poto was 3 feet wide and all the hills were hard packed. Now, because mountain bikes cause erosion, the trail is 6 feet wide in spots, and hills are loose and rutted." Parts of this statement are true. The Poto does bear signs of her old age — wider and bearing some scars of erosion. However, this is not due to mountain bikes, per se. Rather, it is due to an incredible increase in day use over the past 10 years. An increase in volume. True, there are more mountain bikes coursing through the Poto than hikers nowadays. However, if the "recreational vehicle" of choice for the general public was slanted toward hiking, with hundreds of hikers trotting around the Poto every weekend, the results would be the same.

Myth: Mountain Bikers, as a user group, monopolize trails.

This one is a dandy! I'll use the Potawatomi Trail as an example. Popular myth has it that

folks don't use the Poto for foot traffic much anymore because of the bike traffic. **The fact is that people just don't use feet for trafficking the trails as much as they use bikes nowadays (as noted in the preceding myth.)** The trail systems in the Pinckney and Waterloo Trail Systems bear evidence of this. A quick weekend use survey of the "foot traffic only" Lost Lake Trail at Pinckney and the "no bikes allowed" portion of the Waterloo-Pinckney Hiking Trail will show that the volume of use from foot traffic just doesn't compare to that of bike traffic. In fact, many users of these "foot traffic only" trails often joke about parts being "overgrown like a goat path".

That said, I don't believe it is appropriate for us as mountain bikers to be apologists for actually using our trails. Detractors of mountain biking will often point to the "good old days" when trail use was "sparse", asking "Is sparse use really a bad thing?" I would argue that little use is ultimately a bad thing. People need to be with nature in order to appreciate it. If you never experience something, you won't miss it when it is not there. And, in a world of static resources — if you don't use it, someone else will (i.e. The Hills of Potawatomi: Condo sites from the \$210s.)

In the end, I think this myth comes down to simple economics. Too much demand for trail and recreational lands? Sounds like society needs to increase the supply.

Myth: Mountain bikers are all twenty-somethings that need an adrenaline rush.

Call this one the ESPN 2/X-Games/Mountain Dew myth. For many people in our culture, reality is rooted firmly in whatever is spit out of the 30 inch box in their living room. Mountain biking still hasn't recovered from being the darling of Madison Avenue a few years ago. What was good for moving corporate product in the visual media, has been bad for advocacy. Luckily, this myth isn't that hard to dispel. All you have to

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MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION
4217 HIGHLAND RD. #268
WATERFORD, MI 48328-2165

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Nature never said to me: Do not be poor. Still less did she say: Be rich. Her cry to me was always: Be independent.

Sebastien-Roch Nicolas de Chamfort